



# Al Franken

## U.S. Senator for Minnesota

### **Fighting for Women in Minnesota and across the Nation**

One of Senator Franken's top priorities has been to ensure that women in Minnesota and across the country can count on access to quality health care, fair treatment in the workplace, and a life free from domestic and sexual violence. He has developed an impressive legislative record on women's issues, and continues to fight for legislation that will help women nationwide.

#### **Protecting Women's Access to Quality Health Care**

- Sen. Franken was a key voice in the fight to pass the health care reform law, which has **put an end to price discrimination** by health insurers, given more women access to **affordable birth control**, and made it easier for women and men alike to access **quality, affordable health care**.
- Sen. Franken introduced legislation – later enacted by the Department of Defense – requiring every U.S. military base to make available **emergency contraception for servicewomen**.
- Sen. Franken **fought against Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood**, which were ultimately defeated.
- Sen. Franken strongly **opposed the so-called “Blunt Amendment,”** which would have allowed employers to refuse to pay for health insurance that includes contraception.

#### **Fighting for Fairness in the Workplace**

- Sen. Franken is a strong supporter of the ***Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act***, which is helping women fight back against pay discrimination in the workplace.
- He is also a cosponsor of the ***Paycheck Fairness Act***, which would strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to give women more protections against paycheck discrimination.
- Sen. Franken introduced the ***Equal Employment Opportunity Restoration Act***, which would **restore the rights of women to challenge workplace discrimination in court** – rights that were eroded by the Supreme Court's *Dukes v. Wal-Mart decision*.



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### Keeping Women Safe from Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Sen. Franken is a strong supporter of the bill to improve and reauthorize the *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*, which provides protections for women who are the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or who are at risk of being victimized.
- Sen. Franken successfully fought for two important provisions in the Senate's VAWA reauthorization bill:
  - His *Housing Rights for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence Act* would make it unlawful to evict a woman from federally supported housing just because she is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
  - His *Survivors of Sexual Assault Act* would ensure that survivors of sexual assault are never forced to pay for their own rape kits.
- In 2009, Sen. Franken successfully fought for legislation that would prohibit the Defense Department from doing business with contractors who require their employees to sign mandatory arbitration agreements for cases of sexual assault.

### Accolades

- Sen. Franken has received a rating of **100% from Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America**, indicating a perfect record on issues of reproductive choice.
- The Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) featured Sen. Franken as one of its **"Lawmakers Making a Difference."**
- In 2010, he was presented the **AWARE Award** by the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) for "his outstanding dedication to raising awareness about sexual violence and unique contribution to the wide variety of work necessary to end sexual violence, and for giving a voice to these most silent of victims."
- For three consecutive years (2010, 2011, 2012), Sen. Franken has been named the Minnesota Women's Press's **Newsmaker of the Year**.